



NURSERY NEWS

New pest alert: Brown marmorated stink bug

The brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), *Halyomorpha halys*, (Fig. 1) is an exotic pest introduced from Asia. First detected in the U.S. in 2001 in Pennsylvania, it has since been reported in 33 states including Minnesota.



Figure 1

BMSB has a wide host range, affecting species of apple, crabapple, peach, pear, cherry, raspberry, currant, grape, maple, linden, junberry, honeysuckle and rose, as well as agronomic crops including soybeans and corn.

Damage caused by BMSB is mostly cosmetic, but can greatly decrease the value of fresh produce. The bug feeds by sucking plant juices through its straw-like piercing mouthpiece. On leaves, feeding will appear as a light colored stippling that can turn necrotic over time, causing leaf

spots. On fruit, the feeding causes distortion called “cat-facing” (Fig. 2), making the fruit unmarketable as a fresh product. Damage to immature soybeans and pods reduces yield.

BMSB, like the common boxelder bug and the multicolored Asian lady beetle (another recently introduced exotic) can be a common indoor pest in late fall through early spring. The insects congregate in large numbers in homes looking for warmth to overwinter.



Figure 2

A “true bug” with the typical shield-shaped body, BMSB are about 5/8th inch long and 3/8th inch wide. The upper side of the body is mottled shades of brown and gray. The underside is white or light gray. BMSB has dark blue or copper-colored puncture marks

on their heads and dark red eyes. BMSB can be distinguished from other stink bugs by the alternating light and dark bands on their antennae. BMSB eggs are elliptical and tiny, light yellow to light green in color, and found in clusters of 20-30 on the undersides of leaves (Fig. 3).



Figure 3

BMSB is very mobile and can quickly switch hosts, moving from early-ripening crops to later maturing ones. Almost any plant could be at risk.

For more information, visit www.agdepartment.com/Links/Pest%20Links.html.

Possible findings of BMSB should be reported immediately.

Photo credits:

- 1 David R. Lance, USDA APHIS, Bugwood.org
- 2 Gary Bernon, USDA APHIS, Bugwood.org
- 3 Steve Jacobs Sr., The Pennsylvania State University

Notice to nursery growers:

All field-grown nursery stock must be maintained by mechanical and/or chemical weed control. Failure to control weeds may result in loss of certification. Controlling weeds means less competition for growing trees, resulting in a healthier, more marketable product.

**NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Agriculture Commissioner
Doug Goehring

Plant Industries Director
Judy Carlson

Plant Industries Staff
1221 W. Divide Ave, Suite 201
Bismarck, ND 58501
Fax: 701.328.2240
www.agdepartment.com

State Entomologist
Dave Nelson
danelson@nd.gov
701.328.4765

Plant Protection Specialists
Carrie Larson
cllarson@nd.gov
701.328.4723

Charles Elhard
celhard@nd.gov
701.328.4740

Administrative Assistant
Elaine Sayler
esayler@nd.gov
701.328.2391

Project Safe Send scheduled at 12 sites

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture will collect unusable pesticides through Project Safe Send at 12 sites across the state in July.

Persons with more than 1,000 pounds of pesticides should pre-register. A maximum of 20,000 pounds per participant will be accepted.

Collection sites include Stanley, July 7; Williston, July 8; Dickinson, July 11; Center, July 12; Medina, July 13; Fessenden, July 14; Towner, July 15; Devils Lake, July 18; Grand Forks, July 19; Cavalier, July 20; Casselton, July 21; and Lidgerwood, July 22.

For more information on Project Safe Send or to pre-register, contact Jessica Johnson with NDDA at 800.242.7535 or jnjohnson@nd.gov.

Emerald Ash Borer Week

Gov. Jack Dalrymple proclaimed May 22-28 as Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Awareness Week in North Dakota.

During the week, posters emphasizing the threat of EAB were displayed on ash trees in 15 cities and state parks.

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the North Dakota Forest Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and city foresters in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Mandan and West Fargo are placing about 250 EAB traps in cities, state parks, campgrounds, rest stops and ports of entry. Residents and visitors are being encouraged to not move firewood, the most common means the insect is spread.

To see the governor's proclamation, visit www.agdepartment.com/Programs/pp/EAB-GovProclamation2011Signed.pdf.



Photo: Charles Elhard, NDDA

Be on the lookout for late blight

Late blight is a potentially devastating plant disease that affects potatoes and tomatoes. This plant menace can show up any time during the growing season on susceptible plant in the right weather conditions. The pathogen that causes late blight is windborne and can devastate yields quickly in the garden and commercial fields if left unchecked.

Late blight is caused by *Phytophthora infestans*, a pathogen in the "water molds" group of organisms. It is the same disease that destroyed potato crops in Ireland, leading to the Irish potato famine in the 1840s. This disease has occurred sporadically in North America for decades.

All potato and tomato growers are encouraged to learn about this disease and do their part to prevent and control it. Late blight is called a community disease because it is windborne and spreads over long distances. One plant's infection can threaten many others.

The North Dakota State University Extension Service in cooperation with North Dakota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Northern Plains Potato Growers Association, North Dakota State Seed Department, University of Minnesota Extension, NDSU Department of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota Department of Plant Pathology have developed a pest alert that is available at www.ag.ndsu.edu/extplantpath/documents/PP1565-Late-Blight.pdf.



Photos: North Dakota State University

